

THE SOUTH'S PROMINENT GOVERNORS

Most of Them Self-made, and All Have Come from Farms or Small Towns—Broward, of Florida, and Haskell, of Oklahoma, Won by Own Endeavors.

By DEXTER MARSHALL.

Probably at no other time in the last decade or two has the South had so many governors at one and the same time in which the country at large has shown so much interest. There are, for example, Comer and Smith, the saloon and railroad "bustlers" of Alabama and Georgia, respectively; Glenn and Swanson, the railroad-rate "bustlers" of North Carolina and Virginia; Willson, the new Republican governor of Kentucky; Broward, of Florida, who first gained the public's eye as a Cuban filibuster and part owner of the notorious Three Friends, and Campbell, of Texas, who has been busily engaged in throwing corporations bodily out of the Lone Star State. In the list, also, should be put Haskell, the first duly elected executive of Oklahoma, much more a Southern State in make-up than a Northern one; Dawson, of West Virginia, which lies below the Mason and Dixon line; Patterson, of Tennessee, who was unknown to the voters of his district when he ran for Congress, just seven years ago, and, of course, Joseph W. Folk, a Tennesseean by birth, who is the big man in Missouri. Dawson was born in Maryland, Smith in North Carolina, Haskell in Ohio; all the other executives are products of the respective States over which they have been elevated by the voters.

It is rather interesting to note that all the eleven were born either in small towns or on farms. Broward, Campbell, Comer, Glenn, Haskell, and Swanson are country-born; so is Blanchard, who first saw the light of day on a Louisiana cotton plantation fifty-nine years ago, and is the oldest of the governors after Willson, who is three years his senior, and Comer, about four months older. The youngest of the governors is Folk, who will be forty next October. The only others un-



GOV. PATTERSON,
Of Tennessee.

der fifty are Swanson, who will be forty-six days after to-morrow, and Patterson, now in his forty-seventh year. Willson is the only one of the eleven who is sixty or over.

Works Way Up the Ladder.
There is an American ladder to the effect that the average youth born on a farm or in a small town in this country has to work his way up the ladder alone and unaided as a general rule. Certainly all but two of the governors—Blanchard and Willson—found no stress along the paths they took and which have finally placed them in governors' chairs.

But though most of the governors had to make a stiff and frequently uphill fight of it right from the beginning, it is rather noteworthy that nearly all managed to secure college knowledge. Haskell, for example, when he was a little shaver he had the comforts that come to a farmer boy whose father is well-to-do, but when he was fourteen his father lost his savings and young Swanson had to become a farm hand on his father's farm. Though he was thus taken away from school, he still clung to his books, studying late into the night and at the noon hours when the horses were munching their feed. As a result, when he was sixteen, he became a public school teacher.

He taught a year. Then he went to college the following year on what he called saved from his earnings as teacher. His funds thus exhausted, he became a grocer's clerk in Danville, Va., the greatest leaf-tobacco center of the country. Here he joined a debating society, assiduously cultivated his voice and when he was called on to make an address before a union meeting of the Danville Sunday schools his eloquence made such a hit that several prominent citizens of the town, being agreed that such apparent genius ought to enjoy the fullest opportunities for cultivation, made up a purse with which to put the young man through college.

The new teacher made the most of his first years of freedom. The school day over, he spent most of his time teaching himself, and when, a few years after he became a teacher, he took up the study of law by himself by night, he was fairly well educated and broadly read. When he had passed his law examinations and been admitted to the Ohio bar he had the satisfaction of knowing that he had got there solely through his own efforts.

Nominee for Governor.
Before he moved from his native State to Indian Territory he had become a member of the Ohio legislature and had been his party's nominee for governor. As a resident of the Territory he combined promoting with law and politics, putting up several big business buildings in Muskogee and building a couple of Territorial railroads. By the time it was a certainty that the two Territories would soon have to be admitted to the Union as one State Haskell was one of the big men in them.

"Bob" Glenn, the big, jovial, and partly bald-headed executive of North Carolina,

was about as poor as the proverbial church mouse from his early childhood until his luck turned a year or two after his marriage, which occurred in 1878, the year he hung out his lawyer's shingle in Winston, N. C.

He and his Tennessee sweetheart began married life on \$35, so the story runs. They set up housekeeping in a little three-room cottage. Glenn eked out his lawyer's fees by teaching school, which was spent as a clerkship in the courthouse. Mrs. Glenn did all the housework, even to the washing and ironing, and when her husband was busy with a law case she took his place in the school. They were bound to get ahead somehow, but it was difficult work; in fact, they were so poor for a time that Glenn himself had to run all the necessary household errands and carry home the few purchases that he and his wife were able to make. Winston folk are fond of telling the following incident in this connection:

One day while he was "toting" home a sack of flour he was hailed by the chairman of the board of county commissioners:

"Why don't you hire a nigger to carry that bag for you?" the commissioner asked.

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GOV. SWANSON,
Of Virginia.

course of the University of Virginia in two years and hung out his shingle at Chatham, Va., where his eloquence made him the leading lawyer. Though Swanson won't talk about it, his friends declare that with the first money he saved from his legal fees he paid back, with interest, the men who saw to it that he had a college and professional education.

Never Went to College.
Though Hoke Smith's father was a college president, Hoke Smith never went to college, the father personally looking after the son's education. At the age when the average Southern boy enters college Broward had shipped on a cotton-fishing boat for a season on the Grand Banks. Dawson never learned a college cheer, because he was too busy as a boy making both ends meet in a cooper shop, and, as a young man, as a country clerk and school-teacher. Haskell's school days were limited to a few weeks a year during his boyhood, which was spent as a farm drudge for a man who was exceedingly disagreeable, to say the least, to the orphan lad. Willson is the only one of the college men who left the South to get college education in whole or in part; he received his A. M. from Harvard back in 1889. Comer graduated from Emory and Henry the same year. Folk and Patterson are alumni of the law school of Vanderbilt University.

Glenn, whose mother plastered a mortgage on the family farm that her son might get the college education she had long planned for him, and Haskell and Broward, orphans, had a harder struggle to get up, perhaps, than any of the other self-made Southern executives.

From the time he was five, when his father died, until he was sixteen, Haskell was worked and treated much like a dog by an Ohio farmer of the name of Miller. The only solace in the boy's life was the kindness of Mrs. Miller, whose only child, a son, had died shortly before Haskell had come to the farm. To supplement the little he learned during the few weeks each winter he was permitted to go to school, Mrs. Miller read to the boy and instructed him in the three R's when her husband was away from home, which happened quite frequently. In such way he gained an education sufficient to secure a teacher's certificate when he was sixteen.

Gets Teacher's Certificate.
When young Haskell made up his mind that he would try for a teacher's certificate, he did not first ask Miller's permission to do so; he knew too well that a stern refusal would be his portion. So one Saturday morning, before the rest of the house was stirring, he put what little money he had in his pocket and sneaked off to the county seat. Arrived there, he paid 50 cents for the privilege of taking the examinations, with his remaining five cents feasted sumptuously on a sandwich, and then took the examinations, "passing them with flying colors," as the country weekly has it.

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Glenn was seven years old when the civil war broke out. His father, fighting for the Confederacy, was killed in battle, and the sons and their mother went to live with the youngsters' great-uncle, who also had raised their father. But for this relative's assistance, the Glenns undoubtedly would have had a pretty hard time of it, indeed. As it was, they had no spare cash, the uncle being continually in debt, and on his death leaving to the boys a big bunch of promissory notes, as well as his farm. It was this farm that the mother mortgaged in order to give "Bob" a college education. But before he went to college, the future governor and his brother took turns going to school and running the farm. It was while he was a farm lad that the governor built up his giant-like physique. He has said that he owes his good health to the fact that he got so much exercise chopping wood when a boy.

Cooked His Own Breakfast.
Like Glenn, Hoke Smith, who has been pretty much in the public eye since 1883, when he became Cleveland's Secretary of the Interior, had to look sharp after the pennies when he took up the practice of

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Stylish and dressy suits that are just right for the spring season are also special prices to-morrow, and many other special bargains in linings, notions, wauings, etc., make up a most attractive bulletin for Monday.

While you think of it, telephone your Want Ad to The Washington Herald, and bill will be sent you at 1 cent a word.

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